38 actors who have been in Marvel and DC movies

J.K. Simmons was known for years as the man asking Peter Parker for photos of Spider-Man. He then appeared as James Gordon in the DCEU before reprising his role as J. Jonah Jameson.

On the left: J.K. Simmons in "Spider-Man." On the right: Simmons in "Justice League." Marvel Studios/Sony Pictures; Warner Bros.

J.K. Simmons played J. Jonah Jameson in the Tobey Maguire "Spider-Man" franchise for years before appearing as Jim Gordon in "Justice League."

To the surprise of fans, he reprised his role as Jameson in "Spider-Man: Far From Home." Simmons returned for 2021's "Spider-Man: No Way Home."

Jameson isn't leaving DC either. According to The Hollywood Reporter, Simmons is in talks to return as Gordon in an upcoming Batgirl movie.

Ben Affleck was Daredevil before he put on the cape and cowl to play Batman in a few DC movies.

On the left: Ben Affleck in "Daredevil." On the right: Affleck as Batman.
20th Century Fox; Warner Bros.

Affleck famously played lawyer Matt Murdock in 2003's "Daredevil," where he starred alongside Jennifer Garner.

Over a decade later, Affleck starred as a new version of Batman in 2016's "Batman v Superman" and 2017's "Justice League."

He appeared as the Dark Knight again in "Zack Snyder's Justice League" and will reportedly reprise the role of Batman at least once more in the upcoming "Flash" movie.

Zoë Kravitz was Angel in "X-Men: First Class" before playing Selina Kyle in "The Batman."

Left: Zoë Kravitz in "X-Men: First Class." Right: Kravitz in "The Batman."
20th Century Fox, Marvel, DC Comics

Kravitz was a mutant who could fly and spit fireballs in the 2011 movie.

Kravitz also voiced Catwoman in "The Lego Batman Movie" and Mary Jane in "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse."

Now, she's playing an early version of Catwoman in Matt Reeves' "The Batman."

Michelle Pfeiffer appeared in "Ant-Man and the Wasp" years after bringing the role of Catwoman to the big screen for DC.

Michelle Pfeiffer as Janet van Dyne/The Wasp and Selina Kyle/Catwoman.
Marvel Studios/Disney; Warner Bros.

Michelle Pfeiffer almost didn't play Selina Kyle in 1992's "Batman Returns." Annette Bening was set to star as the famous Batman villain before dropping out after becoming pregnant.

It was a surprise to see Pfeiffer as Janet van Dyne, the first Wasp, in 2018's "Ant-Man and the Wasp."

In "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania," Pfeiffer has a very large role, acting as a second protagonist in the sequel.

Halle Berry made Storm an iconic X-Men character before trying her hand at a different version of Catwoman in a solo movie.

On the left: Halle Berry in "X2." On the right: Berry in "Catwoman."
20th Century Fox; Warner Bros.

Berry starred as Ororo Munroe/Storm in four "X-Men" movies released between 2000 and 2014.

"Catwoman" was critically panned and, originally, Ashley Judd was reportedly cast to play the titular character.

Before Tom Hardy became Venom, he was unrecognizable behind a mask in "The Dark Knight Rises" as Bane.

On the left: Tom Hardy in "Venom." On the right: Hardy in "The Dark Knight Rises."
Sony Pictures Entertainment, Warner Bros.

Tom Hardy was unrecognizable as Batman villain Bane in "The Dark Knight Rises."

He's been playing Eddie Brock and the anti-hero Venom in Sony's movies since 2018. Hardy is reprising his role in a sequel this fall.

Michael Keaton plays Vulture in the Spider-Man franchise now, but first, he played one of the greatest incarnations of Batman.

On the left: Michael Keaton in "Spider-Man: Homecoming." On the right: Keaton as Bruce Wayne/Batman.
Sony Pictures/Marvel; Warner Bros.

Michael Keaton played the Caped Crusader in 1989's "Batman" and 1992's "Batman Returns."

Keaton later took to the skies in Sony and Marvel's "Spider-Man: Homecoming" where he played Adrian Toomes aka the Vulture. He reprised the role for the end-credits scenes of Marvel and Sony's "Morbius," starring Jared Leto as the titular antihero.

He'll put on the cape and cowl again for DC in "The Flash" movie.

Before David Harbour was Alexei Shostakov/the Red Guardian in "Black Widow," he appeared in 2016's "Suicide Squad."

On the left: David Harbour in "Black Widow." On the right: Harbour in "Suicide Squad." Marvel Studios/Disney+; Warner Bros.
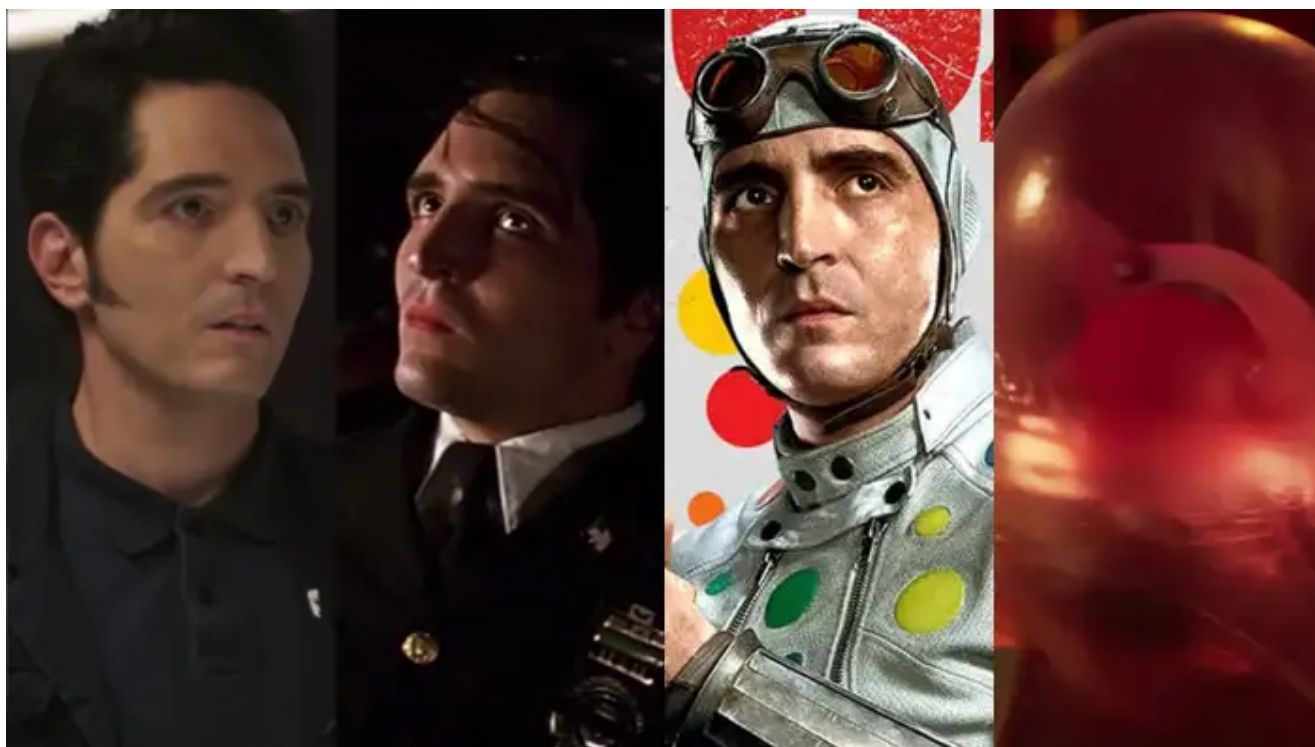
He portrayed a national security advisor who supported the formation of Task Force X in "Suicide Squad."

In "Black Widow," Harbour starred as the Soviet Union's first super-soldier, who was convinced that he could have been more famous than Captain America.

David Dastmalchian has appeared in multiple Marvel and DC projects from "Ant-Man" to "The Dark Knight." He played a leading man in "The Suicide Squad."

From left: David Dastmalchian in "Ant-Man and the Wasp," "The Dark Knight," "The Suicide Squad," and "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania."
Marvel Studios, Warner Bros., Marvel Studios

If you don't recognize Dastmalchian's name, you'll definitely recognize him from his work as one of the Joker's goons in "The Dark Knight" to his turn as Kurt in Marvel's "Ant-Man" franchise.

In 2019, director James Gunn called up Dastmalchian to gather his interest in playing Abner Krill, aka the Polka-Dot Man, in "The Suicide Squad."

Dastmalchian played double duty with DC in 2022 as he also voiced another Batman villain, Calendar Man, in the animated feature, "Batman: The Long Halloween." You can read more of our conversation with Dastmalchian here.

Dastmalchian appears in "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" as a new character, Veb, who Scott and Cassie meet in the Quantum Realm.

While you probably remember James Marsden as Scott Summers/Cyclops in the "X-Men" films, he also appeared in "Superman Returns."

On the left: James Marsden in "X2." On the right: Marsden in "Superman Returns."
20th Century Fox; Warner Bros.

Marsden told Vanity Fair that he didn't know much about his X-Men character until he asked his comic-book-obsessed friends to give him the rundown prior to his audition. He landed the role after several auditions and appeared in four "X-Men" movies.

Between "X-Men" films, Marsden portrayed Lois Lane's fiancé in the 2006 film "Superman Returns."

Idris Elba went from playing Heimdall in the MCU to being a leader of the Suicide Squad in James Gunn's film.

On the left: Idris Elba as Heimdall in the MCU. On the right: Elba plays Robert DuBois in "The Suicide Squad."
Marvel Studios, Warner Bros.

Elba was the man in charge of the rainbow bridge guarding entry to Asgard in the "Thor" movies, "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Endgame." Now, he's leading a group of DC villains as Robert DuBois, aka Bloodsport, in James Gunn's "The Suicide Squad."

As a bonus, Elba was also in two other Marvel and DC movies. He was Moreau in "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance" and Roque in "The Losers."

Before Ryan Reynolds played the delightful miscreant Deadpool, he starred as Green Lantern in one of the worst comic-book adaptations.

On the left: Ryan Reynolds in "Deadpool 2." On the right: Reynolds in "Green Lantern." 20th Century Fox; Warner Bros.

Reynolds made his debut as Wade Wilson/Deadpool in "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," but it would be years before fans saw his Marvel return.

"Deadpool" actually took 11 years to make and Reynolds described that period to the Los Angeles Times as "the worst relationship I've ever been in: on-again, off-again, occasionally sleeping together, which just causes more pain."

"Green Lantern" might have been slammed by critics and Reynolds himself, but the film introduced the star to now-wife Blake Lively.

"Thor: Ragnarok" director Taika Waititi voiced Korg in the MCU after he appeared in "Green Lantern" years prior.

From left: Korg in "Thor: Ragnarok,"Taika Waititi in "Green Lantern," Waititi in "The Suicide Squad."
Marvel Studios/Disney; Warner Bros.; Warner Bros.

Waititi will return to direct and star in the upcoming fourth "Thor" film, too.

In "Green Lantern," he starred as an aviation technician and friend of Hal's named Tom Kalmaku. Waititi and Reynolds have both joked about not remembering their work in the movie.

Waititi returned to the DCEU in "The Suicide Squad," portraying the original Ratcatcher who passed on his unique skill to his daughter.

Willem Dafoe played one of the most iconic Spider-Man villains before being a mentor to Aquaman.

On the left: Willem Dafoe in "Spider-Man." On the right: Dafoe in "Aquaman."
Sony Pictures; Warner Bros.

In Sam Raimi's "Spider-Man" film, Dafoe's Norman Osborn/Green Goblin famously told Peter Parker that he considered himself to be "something of a scientist" as well — a quote that's since become a meme.

The actor played a much less menacing character in 2018's "Aquaman," as he taught the titular character how to swim and fight.

Dafoe also told CinemaBlend that his experience working on the DC film in comparison to "Spider-Man" was "very different."

"They're working with different materials, they're working with different intentions," he said. "But that's OK! I like to mix it up because that way you don't get stuck."

Dafoe returned as Osborn in "Spider-Man: No Way Home," proving why he's one of the all-time great comic-book movie actors.

Joe Manganiello was Spider-Man's high-school bully before appearing as Deathstroke in the DC universe for Zack Snyder.

On the left: Joe Manganiello in "Spider-Man." On the right: Manganiello in "Zack Snyder's Justice League."
Sony Pictures; Warner Bros.

Manganiello starred as Flash Thompson in "Spider-Man" and returned for "Spider-Man 3."

He made his DCEU debut as Slade Wilson/Deathstroke in the end-credits scene of 2017's "Justice League" and also appeared in Zack Snyder's 2021 version of the ensemble film.

Fans will recall that at one point, Manganiello's character was supposed to play the antagonist in a standalone "Batman" film starring and directed by Affleck, which didn't come to fruition. There were also talks of a movie centered on Deathstroke's origin story, but that was scrapped too.

Before Michael Fassbender played the perfect young Magneto, he appeared in "Jonah Hex."

On the left: Michael Fassbender in "X-Men: Apocalypse." On the right: Fassbender in "Jonah Hex."
20th Century Fox; Warner Bros.

Fassbender starred as a villain named Burke in "Jonah Hex."

But comic-book fans are probably more familiar with his role as the menacing mutant with a tragic backstory named Erik Lehnsherr/Magneto in the "X-Men" franchise.

Josh Brolin has run the gamut. Though you may remember him as Thanos or Cable in Marvel movies, he first played Jonah Hex for DC.

From left: Josh Brolin in "Avengers: Endgame," "Deadpool 2," "Jonah Hex."
Marvel Studios/Disney; 20th Century Fox;

After playing the titular bounty hunter in 2010's "Jonah Hex," Brolin took on roles as villains in Marvel movies.

He portrayed the Mad Titan named Thanos as part of the MCU's Infinity Saga for several films and also played Nathan Summers/Cable in "Deadpool 2."

After playing badass Domino in "Deadpool 2," Zazie Beetz caught Joker's eye in WB's Oscar-winning film.

On the left: Zazie Beetz in "Deadpool 2." On the right: Beetz in "Joker."
20th Century Fox; Warner Bros.

She starred as an extremely lucky character named Domino in "Deadpool 2" and portrayed an acquaintance of Arthur Fleck named Sophie Dumond in "Joker."

Beetz spoke about the differences between the two projects during an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, calling them "inherently completely different in terms of production and how everything came together."

"It's genre-bending and not prescribing the idea of a comic book story to be one thing," she said. "They traditionally do span a great spectrum. There's a lot of adult comics; there's also very neutral comics."

Bryan Tyree Henry has shown up in pivotal roles in both "Into the Spider-Verse" and "Joker." He'll next appear in Marvel's "Eternals."

From left: Jefferson Davis, voiced by Brian Tyree Henry, in "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," Henry in "Eternals," and Henry in "Joker."
Sony Pictures Entertainment; Marvel Studios/Disney; Warner Bros.

He voiced Miles Morales' father Jefferson Davis in the critically praised animated movie "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse."

In "Eternals," he'll play an immortal named Phastos, who's fast and can fly.

In DC's "Joker," Henry played an Arkham Asylum clerk named Carl.

Angela Bassett joined the MCU as royalty after playing a version of Amanda Waller in DC's "Green Lantern."

On the left: Angela Bassett in "Black Panther." On the right: Bassett in "Green Lantern." Marvel Studios/Disney; Warner Bros.

Angela Bassett has starred as Queen Ramonda in "Black Panther" and "Avengers: Endgame." She'll return for the upcoming Marvel sequel, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

Back in 2015, Bassett reflected on her role in "Green Lantern" and told IGN that she "enjoyed" working on the film despite the poor reception.

"Of course you wish it had been bigger and more successful," she said. "But you just don't know. I know we put a lot of work in and I thought it was well done."

You may not have realized Chris Pine voiced Peter Parker in "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" in between his time as Steve Trevor in the "Wonder Woman" franchise.

On the left: Peter Parker, voiced by Chris Pine, in "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse." On the right: Chris Pine in "Wonder Woman 1984."
Sony Pictures Entertainment; Warner Bros.

Pine brought Wonder Woman's love interest to life in the DC Universe. What you may not have realized is that in between the two films, Pine voiced Peter Parker in the Oscar-winning animated feature "Into the Spider-Verse."

Pine told Kelly Ripa and Ryan Seacrest when he first saw the visuals for the movie he had "never seen anything like it before."

Though he's known for dishing out card tricks in the MCU, Randall Park was also Dr. Stephen Shin in "Aquaman."

On the left: Randall Park in "Ant-Man and the Wasp." On the right: Park in "Aquaman." Marvel Studios/Disney; Warner Bros.

Randall Park first appeared in the MCU as Scott Lang's parole officer named Jimmy Woo in 2018's "Ant-Man and the Wasp." In 2021, he reprised his role for "WandaVision" on Disney+, much to the delight of fans.

The same year that the "Ant-Man" sequel was released, Park popped up in "Aquaman" as a marine biologist.

When asked by Insider's Jason Guerrasio if he'll return for the upcoming "Aquaman" sequel, Park coyly said: "I don't know if I can talk about that."

Jon Favreau was one of Bruce Wayne's assistants before he was Tony Stark's assistant and friend Happy Hogan in the MCU.

On the left: Jon Favreau as Bruce Wayne's assistant in "Batman Forever." On the right: Favreau in "Spider-Man: Far From Home."
DC Comics/Marvel Studios

Favreau appears briefly in 1995's "Batman Forever" as one of Bruce Wayne's assistants. You can spot him when they visit Edward Nygma early in the film.

Favreau also portrayed Foggy Nelson in the "Daredevil" film that starred Ben Affleck.

Tilda Swinton played a gender-swapped Ancient One in "Doctor Strange" after her role in "Constantine."

On the left: Tilda Swinton in "Avengers: Endgame." On the right: Swinton in "Constantine."
Marvel Studios/Disney; Warner Bros.

Swinton's casting as the Ancient One in the MCU was controversial and Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige has since said that he regretted whitewashing the character.

Years prior to playing the Ancient One, the Scottish actress portrayed an androgynous half-breed angel named Gabriel in "Constantine." The film starred Keanu Reeves as the titular supernatural detective.

Rachel Weisz also jumped to the MCU years after appearing in "Constantine."

On the left: Rachel Weisz in "Black Widow." On the right: Weisz in "Constantine."
Jay Maidment/Marvel Studios; Warner Bros.

She portrayed a spy and scientist named Melina in "Black Widow."

Years before her Marvel role, Weisz starred as twins named Angela and Isabel Dodson in "Constantine."

We know Ben Mendelsohn as the friendly Skrull Talos now, but before that, he appeared in "The Dark Knight Rises."

On the left: Ben Mendelsohn in "Captain Marvel." On the right: Mendelsohn in "The Dark Knight Rises."
Marvel Studios/Disney; Warner Bros.

After playing a greedy businessman named Daggett in "The Dark Knight Rises," Mendelsohn jumped over to the MCU.

He first portrayed the shape-shifting Skrull named Talos in "Captain Marvel" and reprised the role for "Spider-Man: Far From Home." He's set to star alongside Samuel L. Jackson and Emilia Clarke in Marvel's upcoming Disney+ show "Secret Invasion."

Zachary Levi was one of Thor's friends before becoming the leading man of DC's "Shazam!"

On the left: Zachary Levi in "Thor: The Dark World." On the right: Levi in "Shazam." Marvel Studios/Disney; Warner Bros.

Fandral was introduced to the MCU in the first "Thor" movie as part of the Warriors Three with Volstagg and Hogun — but the character was played by "Once Upon a Time" star Josh Dallas.

The role was recast for the "Thor" sequels due to Dallas' scheduling conflicts, which led to Levi joining the franchise.

Fandral was killed off quickly by Cate Blanchett's Hela in "Thor: Ragnarok," and Levi has since spoken about feeling underused in the movies.

"I knew that the Warriors Three could be really fun characters if they ever developed them. They just didn't," he told Screen Rant.

Levi has far more screentime in the DCEU thanks to his part as Shazam, and will return as the character for a sequel called "Shazam! Fury of the Gods."

Jared Leto's now a Marvel vampire after playing DC's most iconic Batman villain.

On the left: Jared Leto as Dr. Michael Morbius in "Morbius." On the right: Leto as the Joker in "Suicide Squad."
Sony Pictures; Warner Bros.

Jared Leto stars as the biochemist, Dr. Michael Morbius, who transforms into a vampire in order to survive in Sony's "Morbius."

Previously, Leto famously played a very different incarnation of the Joker in 2016's "Suicide Squad."

Zack Snyder convinced Leto to reprise his role as the Joker briefly for a scene between the Clown Prince of Crime and Ben Affleck's Batman in his cut of "Justice League" for HBO Max.

Christian Bale is playing an MCU villain after starring in "The Dark

Knight" trilogy.

Christian Bale as Gorr the God Butcher and Bruce Wayne/Batman.
Marvel Studios, Warner Bros.

Nearly a decade after playing the Caped Crusader in Christopher Nolan's "The Dark Knight" trilogy, Christian Bale has made his way to the MCU.

Bale is phenomenally menacing as Gorr the God Butcher in "Thor: Love and Thunder."

Sean Gunn pulls double duty in both the MCU and DC universe.

Gunn is the brother of director James Gunn. On the left: Sean Gunn has played the stand-in for Rocket Raccoon. In the middle: Gunn also plays the Ravager, Kraglin. On the right: Now, Gunn plays Weasel in "The Suicide Squad."
Marvel Studios, Warner Bros.

Not only does Gunn play Kraglin in "Guardians of the Galaxy," but he's also the stand-in on set for Rocket Raccoon.

In "The Suicide Squad," you may not catch that Gunn is playing dual roles again. This time around he plays a giant, goofy, child-killing weasel (named Weasel) and a mean, tattooed Calendar Man who taunts Polka-Dot Man.

Gunn reprises his role as Kraglin in Marvel's "What If...?"

Michael Rooker also appears in both the "Guardians of the Galaxy" franchise and "The Suicide Squad."

On the left: Michael Rooker plays Yondu in the "Guardians" franchise. On the right: Rooker gets implanted with a chip as Savant in "The Suicide Squad."
Marvel Studios, Warner Bros.

Rooker plays the Ravager with a soft spot, Yondu, who became a fan-favorite after "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2."

He then joined his longtime friend and collaborator James Gunn to play Savant in "The Suicide Squad." Rooker reprises his role as Yondu in Marvel's "What If...?" animated series on Disney+.

Director James Gunn also brought Sylvester Stallone into both his Marvel and DC films.

On the left: Sylvester Stallone plays a leader of the Ravagers. On the right: Stallone voices King Shark in "The Suicide Squad."
Marvel Studios, Warner Bros.

Stallone is one of the many surprise appearances in "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" as Stakar Ogord, a leader of the Ravagers.

Gunn told CinemaBlend that he asked Stallone to voice King Shark in "The Suicide Squad" after writing the role for him and hiring three other people who just weren't working in the role.

You may miss Pom Klementieff's small cameo in "The Suicide Squad."

On the left: Pom Klementieff in "Avengers: Infinity War." On the right: Klementieff in "The Suicide Squad."
Marvel Studios, DC/Warner Bros.

Klementieff plays Mantis in James Gunn's "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" and "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Avengers: Endgame."

Gunn included Klementieff in his DC-directed movie as a dancer who appears briefly in a bar. He told Variety he was surprised press didn't ask about it.

"Not a single person has brought it up, and I'm like, "What is going on?" She's in a close up," Gunn said. "It's not subtle!"

If you didn't catch Klementieff's cameo, she appears an hour into "The Suicide Squad."

Before Laurence Fishburne was doing experiments in the MCU, he was Lois Lane's editor in the DCEU.

On the left: Fishburne is seen in "Ant-Man and the Wasp." On the right: We see Fishburne at the Daily Planet as Perry White.
Marvel Studios, Warner Bros.

Fishburne went from playing Perry White at The Daily Planet in "Man of Steel" and the DCEU to playing scientist Bill Foster in "Ant-Man and the Wasp," who, at one time, could grow large to become the character Goliath.

If you're a big Marvel fan, you may also recognize Fishburne as the voice of the Silver Surfer in "Fantastic 4: Rise of the Silver Surfer."

In addition to playing Korath in the MCU, Djimon Hounsou has also portrayed three different DC characters.

From left: Djimon Hounsou as Korath in "Guardians of the Galaxy," Midnite in "Constantine," King Ricou in "Aquaman," and the Wizard in "Shazam."
Marvel Studios/Disney; Warner Bros.; Warner Bros.; Warner Bros

He played Kree operative Korath in "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "Captain Marvel."

Hounsou also played nightclub owner Midnite in "Constantine," voiced an Atlantean named King Ricou in "Aquaman," and starred as the Wizard in "Shazam."

Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje has looked unrecognizable in his Marvel and DC roles.

On the left: Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje in "Thor: The Dark World." On the right: Akinnuoye-Agbaje in "Suicide Squad."
Marvel Studios/Disney; Warner Bros.

In 2013, he portrayed a dark elf named Algrim, who sacrificed his body to become Kursed. Akinnuoye-Agbaje told Collider that his transformation into Algrim took about two and a half to three hours, while the Kurse disguise took about an hour and a half.

Three years later, Akinnuoye-Agbaje landed a role as DC comics character Killer Croc in "Suicide Squad." His full-body makeover, which involved prosthetics and paint, took over five hours.

Tommy Lee Jones appeared as a colonel in "Captain America: The First Avenger." But more than a decade earlier, he played one of Batman's most notorious foes.

On the left: Tommy Lee Jones as in "Captain America: The First Avenger." On the right: Jones in "Batman Forever."
Marvel Studios/Disney; Warner Bros.

Jones played Harvey Dent/Two-Face in the 1995 movie "Batman Forever," which starred Val Kilmer as the Caped Crusader.

Then, he portrayed Colonel Chester Phillips in the MCU's first "Captain America" movie that was released in 2011.

Barry Keoghan played Druig in "Eternals" and is the newest Joker in "The Batman."

On the left: Barry Keoghan as Druig in "Eternals." On the right: Keoghan as the Joker in a deleted scene from "The Batman."
Marvel Studios; Warner Bros.

Keoghan is briefly seen at the end of "The Batman" as "unseen Arkham prisoner."

But the character's unmistakable laugh, curly green hair, and mention of the word "clown" make it pretty obvious that Keoghan is playing a new iteration of the Clown Prince of Crime.

"He's who you think he is," Reeves told a small group of press, including Insider, last month during a Q&A for the film. You can read more about the cameo here.

Following the release of "The Batman," Reeves released a deleted scene from the film that showed Keoghan's frightening version of the Joker speaking with Batman from his prison cell in Arkham.